

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 EA-07 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01

SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 PC-01 CU-02 AID-05 IGA-01 SAM-01

EB-07 AGR-05 COME-00 SIL-01 LAB-04 CIEP-01 TRSE-00

STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 ORM-01 DHA-02 FEAE-00 INT-05

OFA-01 /125 W

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P R 211129Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6769

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY YAOUNDE

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L LIBREVILLE 1304

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, TP, US

SUBJ: RELATIONS WITH SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE

YAOUNDE FOR RDO

REF: STATE 191238

SUMMARY. GSTP PRIMIN/FONMIN TROVOADA INFORMED ME AUGUST 20 OF GSTP AGREEMENT ON OPENING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH U.S. (SINCE CONFIRMED IN WRITING) AND MADE URGENT PLEA FOR U.S. HELP IN COPING WITH STP ECONOMIC PROBLEMS. ACTION REQUESTED: PROCEDURES FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF SCHOLARSHIP OFFER AND QUICK CANVASS OF POSSIBILITY FOR SELF-HELP FUNDS FOR OTHER FORMS OF ASSISTANCE. END SUMMARY.

1. GSTP PRIMIN/FONMIN TROVOADA, WHO FLEW TO GABON ONE
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WEEK EARLIER THAN ANTICIPATED IN ORDER TO ATTEND

INDEPENDENCE CELEBRATIONS IN INTERIOR, ASKED ME TO CALL ON HIM IN LIBREVILLE AUGUST 20 TO DISCUSS POSSIBLE U.S. ASSISTANCE TO STP.

2. TROVOADA OPENED CONVERSATION BY INQUIRING ABOUT PROCEDURE FOR TAKING UP USG OFFER OF SCHOLARSHIPS DELIVERED BY USDEL AT STP INDEPENDENCE CEREMONIES. WHILE PROMISING TO SEEK DETAILS, I REMINDED PRIMIN THAT USG WAS STILL AWAITING RESPONSE TO PRESIDENT FORD'S LETTER PROPOSING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS AND DUAL ACCREDITATION FROM LIBREVILLE. EXPRESSING SURPRISE THAT NO ANSWER HAD BEEN SENT, TROVOADA PROMISED NOTE VERBALE FOLLOWING DAY (SINCE DELIVERED; TEXT SEPTTEL) AND WENT ON TO MORE SUBSTANTIVE ISSUE OF STP DESIRE FOR ASSISTANCE.

3. PRINCIPAL GSTP CONCERN, TROVOADA SAID, IS CRITICAL STATE OF NEW NATIONS ECONOMY. STP ACCEDED TO INDEPENDENCE WITH VERY LIMITED INFRASTRUCTURE BUT IN EXPECTATION OF CONTINUING CLOSE RELATIONSHIP WITH, AND AID FROM, PORTUGAL. HOWEVER, THIS EXPECTATION HAS BEEN FRUSTRATED BY CHAOTIC CONDITIONS IN FORMER MOTHER COUNTRY AND CONSEQUENT FAILURE OF GOP TO SIGN AND IMPLEMENT DRAFT AID AGREEMENTS. SITUATION FURTHER COMPOUNDED BY CIVIL WAR IN ANGOLA, WHICH HAS DISRUPTED NORMAL COMMERCIAL CHANNELS AND HAS PROVOKED EXODUS OF STP CITIZENS FROM BOTH ANGOLA AND PORTUGAL (LATTER UNDER PRESSURE FROM PORTUGUESE NATIONALS RETURNING HOME FROM ANGOLA). RESULT HAS BEEN TO ADD 200-300 PERSONS WEEKLY TO POPULATION ALREADY SUFFERING FROM EFFECTS OF DEPRESSED WORLD PRICE FOR COCOA AND FROM HIGH LOCAL UNEMPLOYMENT (TROVOADA ESTIMATED THAT TOTAL NUMBER OF RETURNEES MIGHT REACH UPWARDS OF 15,000 ON TOP OF POPULATION OF ONLY ABOUT 70,000).

4. TO DEAL WITH SITUATION, TROVOADA SAID, GSTP SEEKING HELP FROM ALL POSSIBLE SOURCES. UNDP DEVELOPING AID PROGRAM FOR STP, BUT RELATIVELY LONG-TERM PROJECT ASSISTANCE NOT GEARED TO IMMEDIATE PROBLEMS. UNHCR HAS ADVISED GSTP THAT RETURNING SAO TOMEANS CANNOT BE CLASSIFIED AS "REFUGEES" ELIGIBLE FOR ITS AID. THUS, CONFIDENTIAL

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GSTP HOPES SUCH FRIENDS AS USG WILL EXPLORE WAYS OF ASSISTING NEW NATION THROUGH THIS CRITICAL PERIOD IN ITS EARLY HISTORY. OVER LONGER TERM, TROVOADA SUGGESTED, US FIRMS MIGHT ALSO BE ABLE TO CONTRIBUTE TO STP'S ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND HE REFERRED SPECIFICALLY TO FISHING AND PETROLEUM EXPLORATION AS POSSIBLE AREAS OF ACTIVITY.

5. I EXPRESSED SYMPATHY WITH PLIGHT OF STP AND PROMISED TO COMMUNICATE TO WASHINGTON PRIMIN'S DES-CRIPH ON OF SITUATION AND PLEA FOR ASSISTANCE. TROVOADA, WHO LEAVES LIBREVILLE AUGUST 21 FOR VISITS TO CAMEROON, IVORY COAST, AND ALGERIA, SAID HE WILL CONTACT ME ON RETURN TO LIBREVILLE TOWARD END OF MONTH IN HOPE OF RECEIVING AT THAT TIME FURTHER INDICATION AS TO WHAT USG MAY BE ABLE OFFER.

6. BALANCE OF CONVERSATION CONCERNING UN REPRESENTATION PLANS REPORTED SEPTTEL.

7. COMMENT: AS TROVOADA HAD PREVIOUSLY INDICATED TO SOUTH KOREAN AMBASSADOR (LIBREVILLE 1237), HE CLEARLY REGARDED QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH USG AS SETTLED AND FAILURE TO RESPOND TO PRESIDENT'S LETTER THUS WAS EVIDENTLY NOTHING MORE THAN ADMINISTRATIVE LAPSE IN UNDERMANNED GSTP. QUESTION OF COMMUNIQUE DID NOT ARISE, AS TROVOADA TURNED IMMEDIATELY TO ASSISTANCE REQUEST WHICH WAS MAIN REASON HE ASKED ME TO CALL.

8. UNFORTUNATELY, AS ABOVE CONCERSATION MAKES CLEAR, GSTP REQUEST IS EXTREMELY VAGUE--LARGELY BECAUSE GSTP SIMPLY IS NOT EQUIPPED TO DEFINE OR QUANTIFY ITS NEEDS. UNDER THESE CIRCUMSTANCES, IT IS OBVIOUSLY DIFFICULT FOR USG TO RESPOND EFFECTIVELY TO BLANKET APPEAL.

9. NEVERTHELESS, SEEMS FROM HERE HIGLY DESIRABLE THAT OUR RESPONSE, HOWEVER LIMITED, AT LEAST BE POSITIVE IN TONE. AT MINIMUM, WE NEED TO PROVIDE GSTP PROMPTLY WITH SIMPLE PROCEDURE FOR UTILIZING SCHOLARSHIP OFFER TO WHICH GSTP OBVIOUSLY ATTACHES CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE. IN PARTICULAR, WHAT RELATIONSHIP (IF ANY) EXISTS BETWEEN CONFIDENTIAL

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USG OFFER AND HUMAN RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM ADMINISTERED BY AFRICAN-AMERICAN INSTITUTE, WHICH AAI HAD PRVIOUSLY OFFERED TO GSTP?

10. IN ADDITION, IS THERE POSSIBILITY OF SELF-HELP FUNDS FOR STP, WHICH WOULD PERMIT US MAKSEEARLY VISIBLE GESTURE IF SUITABLE PROJECT AVAILABLE, OR OTHER FORM OF ASSISTANCE? WOULD PEACE CORPS BE INTERESTED IN EXPLORING PROGRAM FOR STP, WHICH LACKS CADRES IN VIRTUALLY ALL FIELDS?

11. WOULD APPRECIATE QUICK CANVASS OF POSSIBILITIES AND REPLY ON SCHOLARSHIP PROCEDURES IN TIME FOR ME TO COMMUNICATE LATTER AT LEAST TO TROVOADA WHEN HE RETURNS THROUGH LIBREVILLE IN ABOUT TEN DAYS TIME.
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